

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 02777 031851Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CPR-02 SY-05 SS-15 L-03  
/052 W

-----012600 031857Z /43

P 031846Z JUL 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2416  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 02777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PL

SUBJECT: TOWAWAY OF DIPLOMATIC CARS AT JFK AIRPORT

REF: USUN 2634 AND 2676

1. HENRYK SOKALSKI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
POLAND TO UN HAS WRITTEN AMBASSADOR LEONARD THANKING HIM  
CORDIALLY FOR HIS ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING RELEASE  
OF TOWED POLISH MISSION CAR FROM GAS STATION AT JFK AIR-  
PORT.

2. MEANWHILE, MORNING OF JULY 3, 1978, CAR BELONGING TO  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL HELMUT DEBATIN, WAS TOWED FROM  
IN FRONT OF AMERICAN AIRLINES TERMINAL AT JFK AIRPORT FOR  
ALLEGED ILLEGAL PARKING. THIS IS SIXTH PRIVATE DIPLOMATIC  
TOWAWAY IN LAST TWO WEEKS AND IS CREATING VERY HARD  
FEELINGS ON PART OF DIPLOMATS AND MANY ADDITIONAL HOURS OF  
WORK FOR HARD-PRESSED USUN STAFF.

3. DIPLOMATS TAKE POSITION IT IS ILLEGAL FOR AUTHORITIES  
TO TOW THEIR VEHICLES, WHETHER TOW IS BY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE  
AUTHORITIES. THEY POINT OUT THAT PARA 3 OF ARTICLE 22 OF  
VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS STATES, INTER  
ALIA, THAT MEANS OF TRANSPORT OF MISSIONS SHALL BE IMMUNE  
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FROM SEARCH, REQUISITION, ATTACHMENT AND EXECUTION. THEY  
ALSO STATE THERE ARE VARIOUS OTHER TENETS OF INTERNATIONAL  
LAW WHICH THEY CONSIDER PROHIBIT TOWAWAYS.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEGAL OPINION FROM DEPARTMENT ON  
LEGALITY OF PRIVATE TOWAWAYS AND PAYMENT TO PRIVATE OPERA-  
TOR FOR CHARGES CONNECTED WITH TOWAWAY. LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978USUNN02777  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780274-0462  
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**Subject:** TOWAWAY OF DIPLOMATIC CARS AT JFK AIRPORT  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PL  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
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